GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2505
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
LAW & ORDER
NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any emergent scheme to curb the mass killings in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar does not deploy the para-military forces in the sensitive areas sent by the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether it is not the responsibility of the Union Government to protect States from internal disturbance;

(d) if so, whether the Government will consider to place the law and order subject from the State List to the Concurrent List; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects.As such, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to devise various measures and take concrete steps to curb the mass killings in Bihar. However, keeping in view the overall dimensions which Left Wing Extremism has assumed in some States including Bihar, it has become a matter of concern for the Central Government as well. It has, therefore, set up a high level Coordination centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the seriously affected States, as its members, to review and coordinate steps taken by these States to check the left wing extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem. The Coordination Centre has been meeting periodically. Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, construction/improvement of identified critical roads, preparation of Plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs on constant basis, providing help of para-military forces on need basis etc. have also been taken and effectively followed-up. The affected States are also being given financial assistance under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Force and 50% of the expenditure incurred by the States in combating left wing extremist activities, is also being reimbursed to the States under the Scheme for reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure.

(b): At present, 30 companies of CPMF are present in the State, of which 25 companies are deployed in the sensitive areas, particularly in extremists affected districts.

(c): Article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression, but also internal disturbances and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the process of discharging these duties, the Central Government interacts with the State Government and keeps itself posted in respect of prevailing situation in all the States and takes appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

(d) & (e): There is no such proposal.